

OVERVIEW

1. It has been the Government's practice to publish booklets detailing policy commitments and progress made against these pledges as part of the annual Policy Address exercise. In his Policy Address to be delivered on 8 January 2003, the Chief Executive will focus on the new Administration's policy programmes for the second term. For this reason, we have produced this report to account separately for progress made by the Government on the commitments in the 2001 Policy Objectives Booklet.

2. This report lists and presents all commitments in tabular form as was done on past occasions. By 30 June 2002, we have worked on a total of 1 368 commitments. The following paragraphs summarise the position reached.

On Target

3. The Government is well on target in meeting 1 309 of these commitments, or 96% of the total.

- We have already completed the implementation of 631 commitments.
- We are on schedule in implementing a further 578 commitments.
- We are actively reviewing 100 commitments where the pledges need adjustment to take account of changed circumstances. Some examples are the deferred offer of a second tranche of Government's shares in MTR Corporation Limited, the review of the need for the Cheung Sha Wan Wholesale Market Complex Phase 2, the re-appraisal of the case for providing additional day nursery places and the re-development of existing correctional institutions, pending the formulation of a longer-term plan.

Behind Schedule

4. There are also 59 commitments, or about 4% of the total, which are behind schedule. We have given reasons for the individual shortfalls in the report. These mainly involve delays in implementing works projects and in the processing of draft legislation which requires extensive consultation. Policy bureaux and departments are taking active steps to meet the outstanding commitments.

The Future

5. The arrival of politically accountable Principal Officials, the tight budgetary situation, and the emergence of new priorities will require a fresh appraisal of commitments not yet delivered by 30 June 2002. Indeed, this process has already started. The Government will make clear what the new plans are and report on their implementation in due course.